nections in Madhya Pradesh as on the 31st March, 1988; and

(b) by when these are likely to be given telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on 31st March, 1988 is 48832.

(b) By the end of Seventh Five Year Plan, it has been proposed to provide on an average telephone connection to those applicants who have registered upto 1.4.87 in exchange system of capacity 2000 lines and above, upto 1.4.88 in medium size exchange system and, upto 1.4.90 in rural exchanges depending on supply of equipment and associated stores for works.. The remaining applicants will be provided telephone connections progressively during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Assistance Services in 199

1411. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance service on Telephone Number 199 etc. continue to be bad in Delhi and elsewhere despite computerisation; and

(b) whether any spot surprise checks are conducted by senior staff each day and if so, what are the details thereof indicating results achieved and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The performance of telephone number 199 service is fairly satisfactory. But, there is scope for further improvement in 199 service. This service is not computerised so far.

(b) Spot surprise checks by way of test calls as also personal visits are made by the officers. Whenever any deterioration is observed, appropriate remedial action is taken.

Chari Committee Report

1412. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has flayed the Chari Committee for its unfavourable observations relating to CIL's working;

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made by the Chari Committee; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government against CIL for not following the recommendations of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Coal India Limited have sent their comments on the report of Chari Committee. In these comments Coal India Ltd. have expressed disagreement with some of the findings and observations made in the report.

(b) Briefly, the salient features of the report are:—

1. Though production has increased, the objective of nationalisation cannot be said to have been fully achieved.

2. Massive investments in import of technology and equipment have not reduced cost of production.

3. Import of coking coal can and should be avoided by improving the performance of washeries and delinking the suspect sources of supply.

4. Quality base for statistical report should be in terms of standard coal.